

**Public Schools of Brookline  
Reopening Update - School Committee Meeting  
August 17, 2021**

*The following provides School Committee members a quick update on the opening of the 2021-22 school year. Additional details and information will be discussed at the 8/17 School Committee meeting and communicated to the entire community at an appropriate time.*

**Continued Diligence in COVID-19 Mitigation**

- Ventilation upgrades and maintenance that were completed during the 2020-21 school year will remain intact in buildings and classrooms
- Hand washing and sanitizing
- Health attestation forms will be sent to all PSB students and staff
- Masking for all PSB students, staff and visitors
- Targeted COVID-19 testing and reporting (no cost, CIC Health administered)
- Vaccination clinics (1st clinic - August 18th)

**Prioritizing Social Emotional Well-Being**

SEL has been identified as a priority by principals, senior administration and the School Committee. Investing in the following priorities will help to ensure that all students are emotionally and psychologically prepared to engage in learning:

- Build and maintain strong adult-student relationships
- Create safe, positive and affirming classroom communities
- Establish classroom and school routines

A few examples of the steps the district plans to take to support these priorities:

- Allocating time during planning days for SEL PD and planning
- Increased time at the beginning of the year to build relationships, create positive communities and establish routines
- Partnering with Office of Teaching and Learning to further understand the relationship between social-emotional functioning and academic performance
- Ongoing universal screening

**PSB Community Communications**

- Welcome message and FAQ to be sent to the entire PSB community on Friday, August 20th
- Reinstate reopening website with information and documentation for staff and families
- Weekly *Community Update* message to entire PSB community

**Teaching and Learning**

- All students will have a one to one device
- School will be in-person, full-time, five days a week (DESE requirement, May 27, 2021)
  - Pathways available to students prior to the pandemic for offering virtual learning remain (home/hospital tutoring programs due to a medical condition, three single district virtual schools, and other narrow circumstances)
- The Office of Teaching & Learning/EdTech will continue to offer professional development opportunities, resources and supports for educators for the corresponding learning managements systems ([Learning with EdTech Staff Support Website](#))

- Continue to provide access and strongly recommend all staff leverage the learning management systems that will allow educators to share assignments, materials and provide a platform for streamlined communication between educators, students and families.
  - Grades PreK-2: Seesaw
  - Grades 3-5: Google Classroom.
  - Grades 6-12: Canvas Learning Management System
- Performing Arts (specially singing and wind instruments):
  - Following and keeping abreast of guidance from DESE, CDC, and the National Association for Music Education ([NAfME](#))
  - Example of mitigation factors:
    - Updated ventilation and larger spaces
    - Students singing with masks on
    - Students who play wind instruments will use a bell cover.